

7 JUL 26 2006

SENATE

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PSR No. 42

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF DR. FRANCIS EDWARD C. CUSTODIO, A FIRST YEAR RESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE ORTHOPEDIC CENTER, WHO DIED ON JULY 01, 2006 FOLLOWING AN ANNUAL "WELCOME" TRADITION FOR INCOMING RESIDENTS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REVISITING THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8049, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-HAZING LAW AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Whereas, on July 01, 2006, Dr. Francis Edward C. Custodio, an incoming first year resident of the Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC), died at the same hospital due to "myocardial infraction";

Whereas, Dr. Custodio's death followed immediately after he attended, as one of the inductee-residents, the annual traditional "welcome" rites of the Association of Medical Staff (ARMS) held inside the premises of the Philippine Orthopedic Center;

Whereas, reports were gathered that during the traditional "welcome" rites, the incoming resident doctors, among them Dr. Custodio, scantily dressed in female skirts and blouse, were subjected to humiliation and embarrassing situations in front of the officers and members of the ARMS, senior residents, hospital executives and medical consultants;

Whereas, reports were likewise gathered that alcoholic beverages were flowing and served during the occasion, and that the inductee-residents were subjected to drink alcoholic substances through a device called "Beer Bong" where huge amounts of alcoholic substances are funneled to the inductees body system at a rapid rate;

Whereas, during the occasion, it was observed by the attendees that Dr. Custodio, right after having been subjected to alcohol intoxication, looked very pale, was apparently in extreme discomfort and profusely sweating, and labored his breathing;

Whereas, despite their professional experiences and their sworn duty to preserve human life, not one of the doctors who participated in that "welcome" rites and who apparently observed the condition of Dr. Custodio went to his rescue to administer preventive medical procedure to arrest any impending threat to the life and limb of the poor inductee-resident;

Whereas, worse is that persons who, because of their profession, have vowed to save lives, tolerated the conduct of using a "beer bong" on the

participants despite scientific studies which show that huge amounts of alcohol administered into the body may lead to alcohol poisoning;

Whereas, it is ironic that the death of Dr. Custodio happened in an institution that was established for the purpose of promoting the welfare and saving the lives of the public, and one that is even equipped with an emergency room where Dr. Custodio's life could have been saved;

Whereas, as a consequence of these circumstances, aside from the administrative and criminal facets of the events of that traditional "welcome" rites, there is a need to revisit R.A. 8049 otherwise known as the Anti-Hazing Law to curtail any possible flaws that would lead perpetrators to circumvent its provisions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee/s to conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, into the circumstances surrounding the untimely death of Dr. Francis Edward C. Custodio, a first year resident of the Philippine Orthopedic Center, who died on July 01, 2006 following an annual "welcome" tradition for incoming residents, with the end in view of revisiting the provisions of Republic Act no. 8049, otherwise known as the Anti-Hazing Law and for other purposes.


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator 